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E d i t o r i a l .

It has been said that "all good things come to an end", and this is the feeling that the writer has as he types these lines, for, with this issue, he resigns as editor of this journal. This decision has had to be taken with great regret, for the problems of editing this journal have always been wide-ranging and challenging, and thus always interesting -- although sometimes frustrating. Increased business commitments have necessitated my withdrawal from this post, which henceforth will be handled by an editorial board headed by our national chairman, Mr Fred Passey. I am sure that he, and his team, will carry on the work that it has been my lot to establish over the past few years, and that a splendid result will ensue.

I cannot allow this occasion to pass without registering a very real thank-you to all the many correspondents who, over the past five years or more, have supplied me with innumerable items of information, sightings, book reviews, and articles. If, to date, some of these have not been printed in this journal, then it is solely due to the limited space available to any editor of a journal such as this, or to the fact that, as items, they were overtaken by more or less contemporaneous events of great importance or spectacular nature. This does not mean to signify that these items will not appear in some future issue of "Awareness", because this is indeed very possible. So, whether used or unused, the originators of these numerous items receive from me a very special vote of thanks for their interest in seeing that "Awareness" contains an unending supply of informative and factual material.

It is a matter of fortune rather than deliberate design that I shall be able to retain an active interest in the many research projects currently under way at Data Research's headquarters at Wheatley, and, in my role as research programme co-ordinator, will, I trust, continue to keep in touch not only with the work now being done by Contact (UK) but with many of the correspondents who have liaised with me over the years. Certainly I have no intention of withdrawing from ufology, and, in fact, expect to help promote it still more widely as occasion permits.

Looking back over the period since I first took over as editor of "Awareness", I note the steady growth of interest in the ufo phenomenon by the scientific fraternity, which, although still not over-large, is at least now increasing at an encouraging rate almost everywhere. Hopefully, some of this change of attitude has been reflected in the material printed in "awareness" during this period. I have always felt that bare lists of sightings (even if very up-to-date at the time of printing) make rather arid reading, and I have therefore followed a policy of giving each issue of "Awareness" that I have edited a "good mix", interspersing articles of speculative character with conference reports, accounts of particularly unusual or interesting sightings and encounters with book reviews, and generally tried to maintain a high level of interest. Readers will have noticed that quite controversial papers have appeared alongside those of a technical or academic nature; that reports having psychic overtones have rubbed shoulders with those of a more "nuts-and-bolts" character. It is of such stuff that ufology (as we presently know it) is made. To understand it comprehensively we must be aware of all its discernible facets. I know that my successors are fully aware of this, and am more than confident that I am handing over to a team who intend a continuation of this policy. If they have as much fun editing "Awareness" as I have had, then they should be well pleased.

The Editor.

The editor regrets that, for economic and other reasons, it is not always possible to acknowledge every item of correspondence received by CONTACT (UK).

"GENERAL SYNOPSIS OF THE 1976 UFO REPORTS"

by

George D. Fawcett*

"The most outstanding characteristic of the global wave of ufo sightings in the air and on the ground during 1976 was the notable increase in the number of reported landings, occupant encounters, abductions and physical examinations of witnesses.

1976 also produced a corresponding increase in the number of pilot reports, radar trackings, photographs and movie films, severe animal reactions and possible mutilations, ground markings left by ufos, as well as electric and magnetic interferences in radios, CBs, television sets, and car headlights and engines."

This statement was recently released by this author after detailed analytical studies of the ufo reports accumulated from all parts of the world during 1976; and has been able to add:

"Ufos were reported from dozens of towns and cities in the Tar Heel state during 1976, and were chosen the "Top 6th Story" in the Gaston County news, after hundreds of sightings published in the Gastonia Gazette and other area newspapers".

Such statements provide a glimpse of how widespread and intense ufo sightings became in certain regions during 1976. Now let us look at some of the more important and interesting details relating to the 1976 ufo record.

In 1976 ufo radar trackings plagued veteran radarmen in at least eight locations, such as the NORAD radar base at Falconbridge, Canada; the Simon Bolivar Airport at Caracas, Venezuela; Dulles Airport, New York; the AFB at Port Austin, Michigan; the AFB at Teheran, Iran; the FAA Air Traffic Centre at Tucumcari, New Mexico; and the Elgin AFB at Homestead, Florida. The numbers of ufos tracked on radar screens varied from single objects to over eight ufos, while the altitude of these "bogies" varied from 900 to over 72,000 feet. Incidents of this type posed a serious problem for many worldwide defense communities.

Near collisions, head-on passes, wing-tip formation ufo manoeuvres worried civilian, commercial, and military pilots alike from more than six countries. The ufo sightings reported by pilots described saucer-shaped and cigar-shaped objects, varying from 20 feet in diameter to well over 150 feet in length. Pilot reports were received from the United States, Austria, Iran, Portugal, England, and Japan. They involved the Allegheny Airlines, National Airlines, Eastern Airlines, British Air Ferries, TOA Domestic Airlines, and military jet pilots at Selfridge AFB in Michigan, and the Imperial Iranian Air Force at Teheran, Iran. Only evasive action by the co-pilot of a Boeing 707 at the Lisbon Airport, in Portugal, prevented a collision with a ufo at 4,000 feet altitude on September 19th. Another ufo, some 20 feet in apparent diameter and sporting a classical dome on its upper side, almost collided with a single-engined Army aeroplane above California on January 3rd.

Two "Phantom" jets of the Imperial Iranian Air Force tried to shoot down a ufo over Teheran on September 18th., just one day before the above-mentioned Boeing 707 incident. The circular ufo had been spotted by Teheran Airport controllers, who reported it travelling at "many times the speed of sound". The "Phantom" jets were unsuccessful in their mission, as their electronic gears "jammed" during their close pursuit of the ufo.

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A shiny, sticky, and stringy substance, believed related to the ufo propulsion system, fell to the ground in "long loops" during ufo observations at Oakville, Canada, on January 5th, and again at Willits, California, on October 13th. Dubbed "Angel Hair", for want of a better name, the white coloured material was found, upon analysis, to be composed of boron, silicone, magnesium, and calcium.

Ufo landings were reported from seven countries. They occurred at or near Pershyttan, Sweden; Vance Creek, Colorado; Grand Bend, Canada; Viedma, Argentina; El Paso, Texas; Robertson, Australia; Malone, Wisconsin; Chalus, Iran; Santa Cruz, California; Kitkiojoki, Sweden; North Hudson Park, New York; Tabriz Lake, Iran; Britain Home, Canada; Accopampa, Peru; Tacuarembó, Uruguay; Port Perry, Ontario, Canada; Broke Lake, Virginia; as well as at other localities distributed on a global scale.

At these and other places, ufos left ground markings that included a 133 foot circle with ice crystals in its centre; a mystery ring of scorched grass; a 40 feet wide circular depression; a 35 foot diameter patch of flattened marshland that had also been burned and swirled; six "pock marks"; tripod landing traces; and background radiation increases above the normal. Some of the landings were observed by single witnesses, although more involved multiple observers. More than 18 landings were reported in 1976.

The most intriguing encounters of 1976 were the three dozen or so different cases in which ufo "pilots" or "occupants" were seen. Sometimes called "ufonauts", they were observed in at least nine separate countries — the United States, Spain, Argentina, Iran, Peru, Japan, England, France, and Venezuela. All told, over 50 eyewitnesses watched over 70 ufo occupants either inside their ufos (through "windows" or plexiglass-like domes) or outside on the ground. Such encounters were reported by different persons representing many vocations, such as policemen, students, housewives, businessmen, farmers, teachers, and entire families.

In the United States, "ufonauts" were seen at Omaha, Nebraska; Lake City, Florida; Nashville, Illinois; Ventor, New Jersey; Big Bear, California; Elmwood, Wisconsin; Lake City, South Carolina; Great Falls, Montana; Sanford, Kentucky; Regal, Michigan; and in western Kansas.

Twenty-five of the occupant encounters occurred at night, while the remainder took place during daylight hours. Witnesses described the entities as being like the more commonly reported "Mutt and Jeff"-size varieties, that is ranging from $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet tall in one class to over 7 feet tall in another category. A majority of the ufonauts were reportedly dressed in shiny silver "divers' outfits" with helmets, or as wearing white coveralls. In over seven of these incidents, the ufonauts paralyzed their human observers temporarily with a "brilliant beam of bluish light", immediately following upon which they continued to complete their surveillance, physical examinations, and specimen-taking missions.

Seven witnesses — in western Kansas; in Stanford, Kentucky; in Chalus, Iran; and in Olavarria, Argentina --- reported that they were taken aboard landed ufos and subjected to a complete medical examination.

Some of the ufo occupants encountered appeared to be friendly, but others were outright hostile. Regardless of such factors however, the physiological and psychological after-effects of such close contacts and abductions left the eyewitnesses concerned not only terrified but also generated within several of them loss of memory, nerve attacks, and bone diseases, as well as glandular disorders.

Other witnesses experiencing close encounters of this type, exhibited burn marks on their necks, cheeks, hands, shoulders and arms. Still others suffered needle puncture marks, skin rashes, headaches, back marks, head incisions, etc. Several

of those so contacted were later admitted to hospitals for observation and treatment.

On January 2nd., at Big Bear, California, a lone witness reported seeing a "little man with big bulging eyes" floating in the air. He fired a shotgun at the entity, but it was apparently not hit, and it left the area.

On January 30th., at Seville, Spain, two giant-like creatures hit an eyewitness over his head and inflicted a pair of incision wounds. The witness was also burned by a "trail of black smoke" given off by the ufo overhead.

On February 24th., at Kofu, Japan, an occupant "1.3 metres tall" touched a student on his shoulder and the witness fainted. On April 22nd., at Elmwood, Wisconsin, a policeman was hit by a "blue beam of light" from a hovering ufo that contained occupants. The policeman was rendered unconscious and later treated at a nearby hospital.

On July 18th., at Escalante, Spain, a man and a woman observed a giant outfitted ufo occupant "that floated above the ground" before it boarded a nearby hovering ufo.

On September 8th., at Accompanpa, Peru, two witnesses were approached by two human looking entities from a landed ufo. The man's wife fainted, while the husband, who was touched on his shoulder, reportedly felt "intense heat".

On September 24th., at Regal, Michigan, a lone and badly frightened man watched a small $3\frac{1}{2}$ foot tall creature floating outside his bedroom window. Later, the occupant entered a cube-shaped ufo which took-off vertically.

On October 28th., at Lake City, South Carolina, a man and his son observed a hovering dome-topped ufo, "about the size of an automobile", near the North Carolina border. Aboard the object was a ufonaut with a pale white skin and claw-like hands that looked at the witnesses through "windows" in the ufo. The son was treated for shock. An area 15 to 20 feet in diameter was left on the ground, which was frosted, below the hovering ufo.

President Jimmy Carter, the only president who has admitted ufo observations himself, announced that he will release all government files on ufos in the future. In 1976, the U.S. Air Force "Project Blue Book" ufo files were declassified and released to the public through the new Freedom of Information laws. Prior to this, the secret C.I.A. ufo studies were declassified and released also.

During 1976, evangelist Billy Graham was quoted as saying that some of the ufos could be "angels", while psychic Jeanne Dixon predicted that the ufos and their occupants would land and openly contact our government no later than August 1977.

Prime Minister Eric Gairy of Grenada, West Indies (pop.100,000), called for the United Nations (UN) to open a global probe of ufo sightings in October 1976.

June 24th., 1977, will be the thirtieth anniversary of ufos in modern times, and all indications are that a major ufo wave will be reported about then worldwide — perhaps in "celebration" of the occasion. Scientific computer studies of over 94,000 previous ufo sightings show that this new flurry of expected ufo observations should begin on the 30 degree longitude in Siberia, Russia, on December 24th., 1977. It will be interesting to see if the prediction is fulfilled.

With current ufo sightings averaging a staggering 125 reports per day, on a global basis, it is felt that both the military and scientific communities should speed up their instrumentation in order to better document these increased global happenings which show no sign of ending.

"A DISCOVERY AT MEURSANGES"

by

J.A.Dunkin Wedd.

There is at least one point of identity between Aime Michel ("Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery") and Alfred Watkins ("The Old Straight Track"): both of them are heretics to orthodox science. Cosmologists and archaeologists alike will have none of them. Nor is this to say that, because they have both drawn straight lines between their respective observations (Michel orthotenic lines between sites of French ufo sightings, and Watkins ley lines between British prehistoric sites), their resultant maps relate necessarily to the same thing, particularly as the known leys are mainly English and the main orthotemies are largely French. What, one may ask, can be done to bridge the gap separating these two curiously similar sets of results?

It was with just that purpose in mind that I visited Meursanges in Burgundy, France in the Jura, and Niffer by the upper Rhine, in August 1963. The thrill of driving into Meursanges one evening and seeing three pine trees in a clump beside the river Bouzaise made this perhaps one of the biggest moments in my life so far, comparable in fact to flying with the R.A.F. This is not an exaggeration, for I went to France purposely to make this hoped-for discovery, and for no other reason. According to my prediction, those pine trees were to be expected at that locality.

Readers who are familiar with my earlier article on the apparent association of ufo sightings, especially those displaying a "falling leaf" motion, with clumps of pine trees ("Awareness", vol.5 (1976), no:4), will not need reminding of why I was interested in the clump of pine trees beside the river Bouzaise near Meursanges.

My story really began around 1950, when I spotted simultaneously a lone pine tree (pinus silvestris) in Ken Wood, close to Highgate, and the tumulus on Hampstead Heath, which also had pines and thorns growing by it. Taking the alignment between these two sites, I found that, by projecting it, the alignment led down to Westminster Abbey, sited according to an ancient legend on Thorney Island, so called because of a remarkable clump of thorns that once grew there. Was it a coincidence that I had sighted my first ufo at another Thorney Island way back in 1941?

When I was the "UFO Observer Corps" member for Kent, I was called upon to investigate two local sightings in August 1960. They occurred within three days of one another — at Mark Beech and close to Keston Mark. These place names set me wondering. Are ufos interested in our "marks"?

As pointed out by Alfred Watkins, the scots pine is usually linked most closely with the siting of leys. This, perhaps, was once so much taken for granted that the name Mark Beech signifies a mixture of beech trees with the usual pines, for that is how it is today. Thorn Hill in Somerset, where I saw my ufo in 1941, has pines in the centre of a ring of thorns (the hill might reasonably be said to possess a crown of thorns). I suspect that Thorney Island had scots pines too, like the tumulus on Hampstead Heath, which also had thorns in a ring around the pines. It should be added that such a clump could endure for thousands of years, the trees regenerating naturally.

As another coincidence, an outing on International Contact Day in 1963, which the BBC televised in their programme "Tonight", was also held below Gills Lap in Ashdown Forest — Gills Lap being a clump of pinus silvestris bearing a striking but probably merely coincidental resemblance to Coles Tump illustrated by Alfred Watkins in his book (op.cit.)

My eyes alerted, I began to notice more and more clumps of pinus silvestris, and found that Mark Beech lay in a run of six, and that the line passes through a seventh point which was formerly a triangulation station for the Ordnance Survey. It was roughly along this line (ley) that the ufo had been seen to travel.

The precise direction of a ufo's flight is difficult to determine, and no reliable maps of ley lines have yet been published. It cannot be satisfactory to insist that no less than seven points must be marked to constitute a ley. Even one point might prove sufficient if a definite pattern was involved, say a star system or a pattern of parallel lines. The criterion must be the observer's ability to make a prediction and see it verified in the field. Thus there appear to be difficulties in proving that ufos follow along ley lines, even assuming that the latter are real.

Experience has shown that a more useful approach is to look for landmarks where the orthotonic lines cross, or, better still, where the ufos change from one orthotonic line to another. Michel has recorded five such cases, and notes that the "falling leaf" manoeuvre is always accompanied by a change of flight path.

When flying a "Tiger Moth" in training, I used to do a "falling leaf" manoeuvre just for the sheer fun of it. It was contrary to the rules, although at the time that seemed unimportant. Kicking the rudder to right and left alternately, one could follow the downward path of a coin when dropped into water, such as, say, a swimming bath; the idea being to avoid getting into a spin. As a generalization, one could say that a flat object, like a coin or a discoidal ufo, would, unsupported in a fluid, tip from side to side as it fell or descended rather than descend vertically.

But how extraordinary that a saucer should change course in this manner. Is it so closely stuck to the straight line/s that it cannot execute a gradual turn (as a bird or an aircraft would do) when it reaches an intersection point and makes ready to follow another line? This surely causes us to look for an explanation.

It is not unreasonable to assume that the "falling leaf" motion is a sign that the ufo exhibiting it is temporarily unsupported. It might also be reasonable to suppose that the slowing down effect at the point where a new course is set is what causes reduction in the support (type unknown) normally enjoyed by the ufo in flight. In other words, the ufo is propelled sideways by some as yet undefined force and maintains its altitude by a sort of aerodynamic lift derived from an upward tilt of its leading edge. This would be consistent with the claims made by some that discoidal or saucer-shaped ufos are used only where there is a suitable atmosphere to travel in. A further reason could also be that the sideways thrust is obtained by destroying molecules of the atmosphere on one side of the object, creating a partial vacuum, into which the atmospheric pressure propels the ufo.

On reaching intersection points on the orthotonic lines, the force is reduced, lift is lost, and the disc performs a falling leaf manoeuvre. It cannot spin as it is, of course, symmetrical. In a spin one wing (or it could be a flange) retains its lift, and the other one is stalled. But why is the force reduced? To go into a turn, it would surely be sufficient to rotate the ufo, or part of its periphery where the vacuum is being formed, and a relatively gradual change of direction would then ensue. Why, however, is the sideways thrust reduced to zero and then built up anew in a different direction?

From various sources (admittedly not always very convincing) we have the information that ufos have to be "charged up" for their motive power. Some sightings appear to relate to episodes in which ufos were apparently charging-up while in the air. It is thus reasonable to suppose that the method of creating the vacuum is an el-

ectrical one of the cathode ray type. The reason for the sudden change of direction, rather than a banking turn, may lie in the fact that the ufos create a vacuum only when in need of great manoeuvrability or rapid acceleration. Quite possibly they use a free energy system, retaining the other for emergencies or for special manoeuvres — like "falling leaf" motions just discussed.

For the free energy system of propulsion, and the cause of the falling leaf manoeuvre, we may postulate the existence of "magnetic currents" — whatever they may be. From several sources, again not always unimpeachable, we have this concept though seldom any coherent explanation of it; only that Man is on the wrong track trying to blast his way violently through the atmosphere and through space, and that he would do better to make use of the natural flow of energy said to exist in space. On this basis, then, there exist fields of force possessing a common direction, traversing the atmosphere; or rather a number of such fields, criss-crossing one another. Tuned in to any one of these, a ufo could conceivably travel without waste of power; but it can only travel in the direction of the particular line of force it initially selected to tune into to. When a change of direction is required, the ufo would have to retune to another current flowing in the desired direction. This may take a little time to catch up the ufo and sweep it along, and during the resultant period of acceleration the ufo would temporarily lack adequate aerodynamic support, whereby a "falling leaf" effect would ensue. Or, it may be that the transverse current is stronger at the lower level, or that the act of retuning takes a little while to accomplish. In this connection I quote the following:-

"The pilot would sit in a bucket-shaped seat before a table on which was a small object like a hammer. There was a row of metal-like strips protruding like organ stops. Taking the hammer, the pilot struck one of the strips and a melodious 'ping' was taken up by some sympathetic instrument and the note persisted at first and then rose higher and higher. Other notes seemed to blend in" (Flying Saucer Review, July/August 1958, p.27).

This certainly suggests the sort of delayed-action tuning that would account for falling leaf manoeuvre. Sudden right-angled turns or zig-zag flight patterns exhibited from time to time by ufos could also directly relate to what we have been discussing, although in those instances one presumes that some sort of instantaneous tuning, perhaps electronically, was involved.

In postulating the existence of "magnetic currents" in space, we are but echoing the ideas advocated by some members of the Old Straight Track Club founded by Alfred Watkins. Either the "marks", such as trees and hummocks of ground are in some way caused by the presence of magnetic currents (not a very feasible sounding proposition) or the ancient surveyors of some previous culture knew of these currents and how to locate them, marking them accordingly. These surveyors could conceivably have been space visitors, although more likely they were, as Watkins suggested, the "doddymen" and "tutty-men" of whom folk memory is still preserved.

Of the Old Straight Track Club members, Egerton Sykes went so far as to say that the criticism of Watkins' idea that the Straight Tracks were used by pedlars is that there are cases of multiple leys running parallel to one another, and too close for comfort. This is exactly the pattern one would expect of a magnetic "field". So in theory, therefore, the ufos (with their orthotonic lines) and the leys could indeed fit together or be pieces of a common puzzle.

No theory, of course, is worth much if it cannot be tested in some way. The one here expounded would lead one to conclude that at all the five designated "falling leaf" locations recorded by Michel in "Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery" there would be a "mark", possibly a clump of pinus silvestris. This at least

is what I set out to try and prove. I had too little time to visit Chappelle-Hugon and Valence, so had to confine researches to the three places nearer the English Channel. The result was that I got a certain hit, a very probable hit, and a double negative. The Niffer-Kemps sighting was close to woods that positively spilled over with specimens of pinus silvestris, and I was thus prevented from discovering and precise location for the "mark" I sought.

The pine clump at Meursanges consisted of three specimens of pinus silvestris, a tree that was a rarity in that region of Burgundy. I travelled over 50 miles the next day before encountering another of that species (indeed, the landscape was very unlike that I know in Kent, and I drove for miles and miles before seeing the sort of landmarks that abound in England), although it must be stressed that my journey was confined to traversing the French roads and my observations to noting what lay in the areas visible on either side of them. It must nonetheless be significant that in a journey of 1,500 miles I saw only three specimens of pinus silvestris. It was more especially encouraging to read in Michel's tome (op.cit.) that M. and Mme. Vittre were still close enough to Meursanges to call at a farm on the outskirts. Field examination disclosed that this could not have been more than 100 yards from the aforementioned clump of pinus silvestris there.

At Frasne, the problem was to find any conifers at all, and I felt miserably disappointed. The best thing I could see, half a mile away to the south, was a clump of trees that, due to intervening marshy ground, I could never get close enough to to identify the type/s of trees composing it. I retired to my car considerably dampened in body and spirit, and sought my copy of Michel's book. On consulting this I was delighted to find that, although Michel's map gives Frasne as the location of the sighting, his text states that the ufo had been seen further to the east, beyond Dompierre, and on the left of the eyewitnesses' car travelling westwards. So I proceeded to the south-east of Dompierre and searched that area where, much to my amazement and delight, I found a fine clump of pine trees close to Le Tertre. It stood up on a tumulus of its own, and was evidently a hallowed spot as it held a little wayside shrine to the Virgin Mary. Although at first sight it seemed to consist of pinus nigra* trees only, closer inspection revealed that, in among those trees and some firs, ash and lime trees, were specimens of pinus silvestris.

Why, one again asks, have these "falling leaf" sightings almost invariably occurred directly over or very close to clumps of trees composed either wholly or partially of pinus silvestris (itself demonstrably rare in all the French regions that I visited)?

I cannot leave my argument without reference to what Buck Nelson said about ufos. His remarks are crucial here because they are just the sort of information that furnish valuable clues on how to use the "magnetic currents" ourselves, and because they permit us to confirm the truth of at least a part of it, a part which could scarcely have been invented. It also suggests that Nelson's story, which has been much maligned in some quarters, is indeed authentic. Nelson categorically asserts that ufos use magnetic currents and that these are named and numbered, which I take to mean classified into parallel systems of which the name refers to the basic direction. He also states that "where the magnetic currents cross is comparable to a cross-road sign". This statement could only refer to a landmark, so I believe that, however discreetly tucked away, those three pine trees at Meursanges do not stand unnoticed by the ufos or their occupants. And that, I contend, makes them quite important.

* Named as pinus laricio in the author's earlier article (Awareness, vol.5, no:4, 1976, p.5: Ed.).

"UFO ACTIVITY IN NORTHERN ENGLAND DURING THE AUTUMN AND WINTER
OF 1976",

by

Jenny Randles.

It appears to be a rule in ufology that sightings increase during the latter half of any year. Certainly the annual report which NUFON publishes tends to reflect the pattern shown by other statistical studies which indicate a peak in October/November, as opposed to a low or trough in February/March. It will be of great interest to see if this trend continues into 1977 — something predicted by many (including the editor of this journal: see The UFO Register, vol.7, pt.1, 1976) as being a potential "flap" year. Regardless of this, however, 1976 did indeed reflect this historical factor, and NUFON found itself most active during the Autumn and Winter months.

Before coming to this period, however, a case from 1975 deserves mention. This came to light in October (1976) following a radio programme by MUFORA, the Manchester group. The witness was very wary of publicity, and in fact only approached the investigators after the programme was over. He did not wish to appear on the air.

The sighting occurred in August 1975 (almost certainly on the 31st.). The witness is a very well balanced and educated man who engages in a good deal of travelling alone in his van. On the date in question, at 8.00pm., he was driving along the A635 road across the desolate moorlands near Mossley, returning home to his village. He was just approaching the West Yorkshire/Greater Manchester county border in thick hill mist that reduced visibility to a few metres.

Ahead of him he saw a white glow shining through the mist. It formed a clear tunnel through this, although it was at least several hundred metres distant. He slowed the van and eventually stopped because he was worried that it was a large vehicle in the road ahead, even though the surroundings are desolate peat-bogs and the road itself quite narrow (later measured at the site investigation as being 5.7metres wide.). He wound down his window and looked out. There was no sound and the object was stationary, apparently on the ground in a field by the roadside. After a few seconds the object began to move diagonally towards the van, at a speed which was estimated at no more than 3-4 miles per hour.

The witness in his vehicle was able to draw a very accurate picture of the object as it sailed past, within just 7.6 metres of him. It cleared the marker posts by the roadside by rising upwards 'enbloc', crossing the road, and then dropping down into the field at the other side (again 'enbloc'). The marker posts are 1.2 metres high, made of wood, and were apparently unaffected. The diagram comprising Fig.1 shows the object, with dimensions that are thought to be accurate to within a very narrow margin. There was a black circular mark on the rear underside, but otherwise the object was smooth translucent white, which did not reflect light but was projecting light outwards from within an opaque-like surface.

Mist was swirling all around the van, and the object appeared to be still taking a tunnel of it along with it. Suddenly out of the mist two white shapes appeared, within a few metres of the car. They were sheep following the object and looking up at it. One was bleating. They followed it mechanically across the road and down the valley, where the object changed direction. It was lost to sight after a total observation time of several minutes.

The witness was clearly very frightened by this experience and found himself clutching a screwdriver (probably an automatic defense mechanism) which he did not

recall picking up. He felt paralyzed (though it is not clear whether this was a real effect or one simply due to fear). In addition, when the object moved out of range, the witness quite noticeably felt his ears 'pop' due to a change in air pressure — which would support the vortex apparently created by the object.

MUFORA conducted a thorough investigation of this incident through investigators Jeff Porter and Peter Warrington, and no conventional explanation for it has been found. Some have proposed that the object was a weather balloon, but this (in the face of all the reported details) is so untenable as to be patently ridiculous(1). The presumably mesmerized sheep constitute a particularly interesting aspect in this case as their reactions appear to have been closely similar to those of the line of small mammals crossing the road towards a pair of humanoids near a road in the vicinity of Hartford City, Indiana, during October 23rd., 1973 (2).

Many of the reports investigated in 1976 turned out to have fairly simple explanations, and indeed only about 10% consistently defy rational explanation. A case that has almost certainly been explained deserves mention here because it illustrates some of the problems of taking too much for granted, and because it received a certain amount of local publicity (in the press and on the radio) which was never refuted, even after a probable explanation was found for it.

This concerns a photograph allegedly taken by a poacher who was after trout in the Bollin Valley near Macclesfield, Cheshire, at 5.00am on July 14th., 1976. He claims to have heard a humming noise and, upon looking upwards, saw a golden disc the apparent size of a bus. Without going into too much detail, the object allegedly hovered, wobbled in the well-known "falling leaf" manner, then flipped onto its edge before shooting out of sight at tremendous speed. It was whilst on its edge that the witness, a Mr. Ellis, was able to snap one black and white print with the cheap camera he had with him.

The resultant photograph quite clearly shows the disc shape, with a little foreground, and could be accepted at face value as very evidential. However, there were certain inconsistencies in the eyewitness's story that came to light during the interview. For example, the witness claimed to have always taken a camera on his poaching trips, but on the occasions he was interviewed it was "not available". There was also the fact that, as the photograph was released to the press, he announced that he was publishing a book about his poaching experiences — including of course the photograph. To put it mildly, this seemed an interesting coincidence. Then, upon expert analysis of the photograph, several major negative factors emerged, such as problems over depth of focus. While nothing could be proved with certainty, the opinion of the analysts was quite firm: the photograph was a fake (3).

The Bolton area of Greater Manchester was host to much activity during the winter. This is, of course, one of the hunting grounds of the 'mystery helicopter', which has been seen on and off since 1972-3 by numerous people. Indeed, the aforementioned Mossley case of August 1975 (see top of this page) may conceivably have been one of the best recorded sightings of this elusive object, quite clearly illustrating that it was not a helicopter. However, on September 23rd., Bolton was host to another strange phenomenon which provided an example of a multi-witness series of events.

Piecing together about ten sets of testimony over a very narrow geographical area, it now appears that, at about 11.30pm., a pinky-red ball of light rolled across the sky on a NNW to SSE course. It was silent and appears to have disappeared after a flight of perhaps 10-15 seconds over the Rumworth Lodge Reservoir. This was the scene of one of the best cases of 1976 — the Shelley Barnes close encounter with a hovering object on January 23rd.(4).

There was considerable consistency in the reports, pieced together by Arthur Tomlinso of DIGAP and Peter Hough of MUFORA. Although superficially it might sound like a fireball-meteor checks made with astronomical sources showed that they doubted that hypothesis. No other reports were received of this object outside the Bolton/Horwich area, all indicative of the local origin and probable low altitude of the phenomenon (5).

1976 was brought to a close with a series of events in Staffordshire, which was excellently investigated by the local UFORA Staffs team of Derek James, Chris Bourne, and Tony Pace. There were incidents galore during this period, several of which appear to have no rational explanation (6). Of very particular interest was a series of reports on December 13th and 14th of an oval object with rows of lights in a tiered formation (see Fig.2). It was seen from several points bordering the Cheshire plains at the same time each evening, i.e., at 5.15pm. Descriptions tallied exactly and there was a strange connection on each occasion with some type of electricity power source. Either the object hovered over a pylon or a sub-station. It was also enveloped in a mist-like vapour at the bottom on all occasions it was sighted. The witnesses were completely unknown to one another, and four separate sets of observations are known. The situation is rendered still more puzzling when one considers that very similar objects were seen on December 12 and 13th., 1975, from both the Midlands and Swinton (in Greater Manchester), when the time of observation was almost identical — 5.10pm. This kind of correspondence in "flap" events over the course of one year could be significant factors in our understanding of the ufo phenomenon (7).

There were other significant events in this "flap". An object was alleged to have landed in a field at Cheadle, Staffordshire, on December 28th. No traces were found by the police who looked into the case; but they were of great help to the local investigators and even offered to cordon off the area and call them in to investigate if any traces had been found.

Finally, on December 31st., Nellie Richardson at Bignall End says that she watched an orange coloured oval object hover outside her home for an hour and half. She also saw some shadowy figures "like toy soldiers" moving about in the distance in front of the object (see Fig.5). It was also observed by her 31-years old son as it flew away in the distance at the end of the sighting which terminated at 4.15am. Interestingly, the family cat, normally a deep sleeper, sat on the downstairs window-ledge during the sighting staring out at the silent object.

* * * * *

It will not have escaped readers' notice that 1976 was an unusually good year in Britain for occupant sightings. Two instances were referred to in my last article (8), and, of course, there has since been the now famous incident at Winchester, in Hampshire, where Joyce Bowles and Ted Pratt claim to have been approached by an entity from a landed ufo on November 14th., and subsequently, on December 30th, to have been taken aboard the craft itself (9). A fairly detailed account of this event is printed later in this issue (10).

Yet another incident was reported to have occurred on September 3rd., 1976, at Fencehouses, a little village in Co.Durham. The witness, an elderly lady, who wishes no publicity (and therefore no exact location will be released, although the relevant details are on file), was with her 18-years old neice. Investigator John Rouse of Contact (UK) has so far only interviewed the reporting witness, and the entire episode is still under review. At this stage, however, it is possible to report that, at 9.00pm., whilst walking past a piece of land that had been cleared for building upon, an object was seen atop a mound of earth. It was roughly oval and measured only 5 feet wide by $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high. The centre was a glass-like

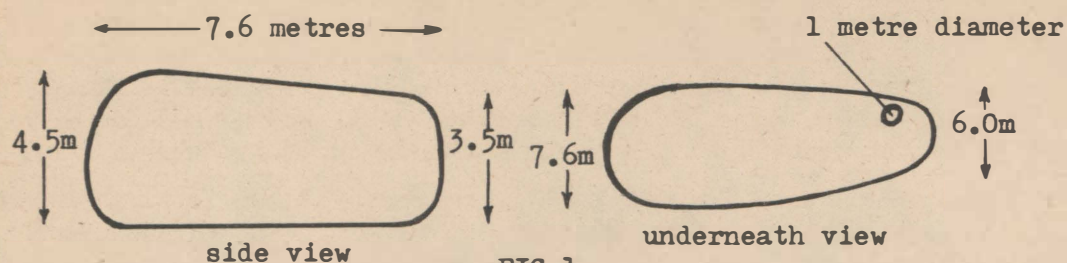


FIG.1
(Mossley close encounter case: August 1975)



FIG.2
(Staffordshire: 13/14.12.76)

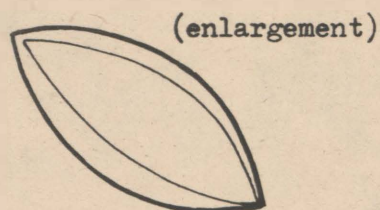


FIG.3
(Macclesfield photo.case)
14.7.76

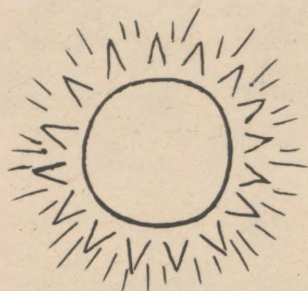


FIG.4.
(The Bolton object: 23.9.76)

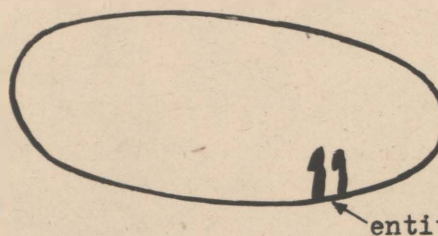


FIG.5
(Nellie Richardson's object)
31.12.176

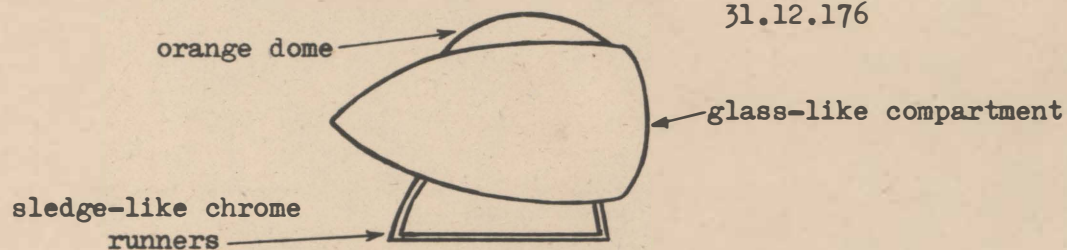


FIG.6
(The County Durham landing)
3.9.76

compartment, the top a glowing orange dome, and the whole thing was resting upon sledge-like runners of steel or chrome.

The witnesses were attracted towards the object and appeared to enter a field of "time distortion" as they neared it. The trees stopped waving, the wind died down, traffic on the nearby road ceased, and their watches stopped (although these worked normally again afterwards). Then two small doll-like creatures appeared. They had long white hair, parted down the middle, large eyes, and claw-like hands. They appeared to be frightened and put their hands up to their faces.

The story now becomes confused and all that is presently known is that the object took off making a humming noise. The next day the witness (the elderly lady) had a possible physical effect. She was trying to insert a plug into an electric socket when an invisible force kept pushing it and her hand back. She had allegedly touched the object, its side, when she approached right up to it and said that it felt warm (11).

As and when further details about this case come to light through the investigations now being conducted into it, these will be communicated through the pages of this and other leading British ufo journals.

* * * * *

Although not a part of the ufo sightings record, it is nevertheless worth reporting here that, during 1976, NUFON held three meetings and a conference in Sheffield. On October 23rd., Raymond Drake, the well known author on historical ufology, delivered a lecture in Manchester. Plans for a NUFON 1977 conference are already under way, and this year it is expected that it will be held in Nottingham (hopefully on September 10th.), the organizers being NUFOSIS (the Nottingham UFO Investigation Society), from whom further details can be obtained direct: please send all enquiries to their headquarters at 443 Meadow Lane, Nottingham, NG2 3GB.

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"J.B.DELAIR -- AN APPRECIATION"

by
F.W.Passey.

Members will have read elsewhere in this issue of "Awareness" of the resignation of Mr.J.B.Delair from his offices as Magazine editor and General Secretary, the result of new business commitments necessitating much travel and frequent absences abroad. Whilst congratulating him on his new post, I, as one who has known him for quite a few years now, feel that some record should be made in these pages of the

loss his resignation means to Contact (UK), as well as the great appreciation we who have known him closely have long had for his hard work and guidance respecting many matters pertaining to our organization. I know I speak for all members when I say that his resignation represents an immeasurable loss to us. Fortunately he will continue as Research Programme Co-ordinator, so will not be lost to us completely. I understand that he has every intention of continuing research into the ufo phenomenon as and when time permits. As a mark of our appreciation of his past services to Contact (UK), your national committee have elected him an ex-officio member of that committee, with the hope that he will be able to join us and give us the benefit of his vast experience at some at least of our committee meetings.

Many though perhaps not all will know that for the past few years Mr. Delair has been an indefatigable worker for Contact (UK), and that it is largely through his efforts, particularly with regard to the inception, compilation, and editing of our annual publication "The UFO Register", that the status of Contact (UK) has risen considerably during his term of office, and is now recognized internationally as one of the foremost organizations of its kind in the world. The energy and drive with which he has infused all his activities has both amazed and encouraged his colleagues, and if at times we were left all a little breathless at trying to keep pace with him, astonished at his breadth of knowledge about ufos and ufologists, envious of his phenomenal memory, overwhelmed by his organizational ability, and thrilled by the plans he had for our future, we were proud to be members of a team operating under his guidance and more than gratified by the end products.

On your behalf, as Chairman for Contact (UK), I offer Mr. Delair our sincere best wishes for his future, and our heartfelt thanks for his past services to our organization.

"REPORT ON THE WINCHESTER 1976 CONTACT CASE",

by

Lionel Beer.

As a preamble to this article, it is worth mentioning that at BUFORA's Conference in Birmingham, held 5th-7th. November 1976, J.E. Delair delivered a paper entitled "UFO Waves and Their Prediction", which has since been published in "The UFO Register", vol. 7, pt. 1. He described 6-year and 10-year cycles, and predicted that the next 6-year wave (the 6-year cycle, incidentally, appears in general to produce more humanoid cases than the years falling outside it) could start about December 1976 or January 1977. The Winchester encounter discussed below occurred on Sunday, 14th November, so I leave it to your judgement as to whether this was too early to fit the prediction. Before this coincidence is dismissed too lightly, bear in mind that this appears to have been the start of a wave of reports in the UK that included two other close encounters. Also consider that there have been rumours of activity in Scandinavia, other parts of Europe including Brittany in France, as well as Iran and Turkey, and some of this continued throughout December.

The two witnesses in the Winchester case of November 14th. were Mr. Ted Pratt and Mrs. Joyce Bowles, who possess noticeable Wessex accents. Mrs. Bowles, aged about 42 years, is an extrovert mother of four sons, and lives with her husband in a semi-detached council house on the eastern side of Winchester. She works at Winchester Railway Station, and owns a new white British Leyland "Mini Clubman Estate" car, registered in July 1976. Mr. Pratt, believed to be about 60 years of age,

and, at least on television, wears glasses. He lives at the small hamlet of Net-her Wallop. In the evening in question, he and his wife were visiting the Bowles family. He is understood to have retired from business due to health reasons.

On November 14th., one of Mrs Bowles's elder sons was visiting his girl-friend in the nearby hamlet of Chilcomb, and his mother had arranged to drive the $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, as she regularly did, to collect him. In fact, she probably knew the road like the "back of her hand". That Sunday evening there had been a touch of frost in the air, which is thought to have thawed by the time that she and Mr. Pratt set out, about 8.45pm, in the Mini Clubman.

From her home on the east side of Winchester, Mrs Bowles drove east over the high concrete bridge straddling the A33 Winchester by-pass road. A straight piece of road, the B3404 leads past a school and a hospital on the north side and, a little further on, there is a cemetery on the south side. A mile and half from the bridge just mentioned is a major roundabout, where the B3404 joins the A31 road to Alton, Farnham and, eventually, Guildford. The roundabout and adjacent road is illuminated at night by the glare of orange sodium lights.

Mrs Bowles drove round the roundabout to come back towards Winchester along the dual-carriageway of the A31, which leads at that point past down Magdalen Hill Down. After $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, the dual-carriageway ends, and it was at about this point that Mrs Bowles said "I saw two lights, the first was higher than the second, which in turn disappeared behind the scrub (to her left), thus in neither case were they high in the air. I drew Mr Pratt's attention to them". She also said that, although they were orange, they were redder than the aforementioned sodium lights. In an independent interview with Dr. Geoffrey Doel, Mr Pratt not only confirmed seeing the lights, but described them as a bright orange-red object flying at about 800 feet, a quarter of a mile away, and some 40 feet long. The lights/object were seen in the general direction of the lane to Chilcomb, and it is supposition that this related to what shortly followed.

At the bottom of the hill, Mrs Bowles took the lane for Chilcomb, which means that she would have had to have braked fairly sharply to negotiate the hairpin bend at that junction. She almost certainly also had to change to second gear. She also flashed her headlights to warn any traffic that might have been coming up the lane. According to her description, as the Mini was going down the straight piece of lane it shuddered and rattled (as though perhaps the ignition had stopped firing?) and the steering appeared to lock. Both Mrs Bowles and Mr Pratt struggled with the wheel but to no avail. On their right was a 280 yard length (measured from the signpost in the aforementioned hairpin) of 20-30 foot wide grass verge. This has clearly been frequently used as a pic-nic spot, and probably courting couples, and it was level with the 12 foot wide lane. Mrs Bowles thought that the car was carried sideways, lifting off the ground onto the grass, rather than skidding off the road. It came to rest in the middle of the grass, parallel with the road.

It is interesting to note that Mr Pratt gave a much more dramatic account of the car leaving the road. He reached over to the other side of the steering column and switched off the ignition. When they looked up (through the windscreen) they saw a cigar-shaped object partially illuminated by the Mini's headlights. It was an estimated 5 to 6 yards (15 metres) slightly to the right in front of the car.

Initially, Mrs Bowles appeared reluctant to return to the lane with us, but eventually agreed to do so on condition that she would not have to get out of Arnold West's Volkswagen "Caravanette". She no doubt felt safety in numbers on arriving, near dusk, as she joined us on the grass verge. It was interesting trying to watch her recall the exact position of the car and the object on the night of the en-

counter, and silently lent a lot of emphasis to her description.

While at the site, Mrs Bowles said that during the encounter she had heard a whistling sound. There was a definite whistling sound while we were there, but curiously enough this seemed not to make any impact on her, so presumably the local starlings or other hedgerow birds were not responsible.

With the aid of a tape measure, we estimated that the object, which she described as like a "fat Winston Churchill cigar", would have been about 12 feet long and perhaps about 5 feet high. Since it was dark at the time of the incident, she was uncertain whether she had seen the full extent of the object --- particularly as, towards the right hand end of it (as she viewed it), was what she described as three brightly lit bow-shaped windows. During the interview a certain amount of play was made on the "windows", and Mrs Bowles emphasized that they were neither oval nor bubble-shaped. She told us that Mr Pratt said he had seen only one window, and this is a point of significant difference in their respective accounts. Behind the window (or windows), the witnesses saw three figures, sitting as though seated in a bus, in that they were ranged one behind the other, with only head and shoulders visible.

The object was just above the ground, with vapour underneath it. Mrs Bowles neatly described the source as being like an inverted gas-stove jet. Mr. Pratt told Dr. Doel that the object was 18" above the ground and supported by four jets blowing out gasses. He also said that the cigar was glowing with a diffused orange-red light.

It is possible that a few seconds elapsed before they saw a figure emerge out of the darkness between the cigar's right hand side and their car, although no opening was noticed in the object from which the figure could have emerged. If the light from the window/s had been very bright, the witnesses could have missed seeing a figure coming out of the end, or perhaps from round the other side. The figure, who will henceforth be referred to as the MAN, took about 4 or 5 steps towards the car walking in a normal manner. As the Man --- which Mr Pratt described on BBC's Nationwide TV Programme as being about 6 foot to 6 foot 5 inches in height --- reached the driver's door, HE must have turned slightly to face towards the dashboard. HE then bent down to look in through the driver's window, and the witnesses thought HE probably had his left hand on the roof of the car. This might be significant in view of what followed. The MAN glanced along the dashboard and the engine suddenly sprang to life. At the time, the headlights, which were on full beam, shone so brightly that the witnesses expected them to burn out.

Mrs Bowles said that she had been extremely frightened even before the MAN appeared, and had buried her head in Mr. Pratt's shoulder, besides wrapping her legs around his on his side of the car. On the other hand, according to her, the event gave Mr Pratt the power to be very calm, despite the fact that he suffered from angina.

What particularly struck Mrs Bowles about the MAN were his piercing pink eyes, which apparently had no discernible pupils or irises. She was convinced that it had left some kind of effect on her own eyes, like one might expect from looking directly at the Sun. Apart from that, HE looked very much like an ordinary man. HE had short fair hair at the front, which came down to the shoulders at the back where it turned up slightly. HE had sideboards which met in a roughly pointed beard, but no moustache. His palish face, illuminated apparently by a combination of moonlight and reflected headlights, featured a fairly pointed nose, a normal mouth, and, except for the eyes, otherwise appeared normal. On the Nationwide TV programme, Mr Pratt described the MAN was wearing what resembled a boiler-suit, with his hair brushed backwards over his head whence it descended to his shoulders.

Mrs Bowles mentioned at one point that HE had silvery speks in his hair, and that "His clothing shimmered as if being shaken by a wind". When HE bent down to look into the car window, his 'overall' ballooned out like a cyclist's cape. His outfit did not appear to have buttons, but there was a seam running vertically down the left side on his chest (i.e., his right side). She described the colour of the outfit as being that of 'Baco-foil', a sort of dull silver colour.

As the car engine was revving, Mrs Bowles probably had her eyes closed, but eventually said "Look out Ted, HE is going round your side". Mr Pratt, however, could see no sign of the being behind the car, and by the time they looked back, the cigar and its occupants had completely disappeared. Mr Pratt offered to drive the car for the rest of the way, but Mrs Bowles said she was too frightened for either of them to get out (to enable them to change positions).

When Mrs Bowles started the car herself and engaged first gear "it was like hitting a barrier". The car would not move. At the second attempt, however, the car started without any trouble, and Mrs Bowles was able to drive it off the grass.

So she drove to Chilcomb, a further half mile down the lane, to collect her son Stephen. What surprised us somewhat was the fact that she chose to drive back along the same lane, when there is a perfectly good alternative lane leading out of Chilcomb, which, had it been taken, would not have lengthened the journey. The encounter occurred between 8.55 and 9.00 pm., and both Mrs Bowles and Mr Pratt were back in Winchester at Mrs Bowles's home by about 9.25pm. Thus there is no reason to suspect a time delay factor.

Mrs Bowles reports that "Mr Pratt 'phoned the BBC on our arrival home, mainly to find out if anyone else 'phoned in". The outcome of this was that they appeared together on BBC Southern Region Television the next day, when it (there experience) was also mentioned on the radio in London. On Wednesday, three days later, they appeared together on national television at peak viewing time — on BBC's "Nationwide" programme. Before viewers saw them, a "Mrs Bates", an attractive long-haired lady, told of how she had seen a man in a silver suit bounding along the side of the A46 Bath Road the previous day. Subsequent information on this alleged incident, however, suggests that it was a hoax perpetrated by students at Bristol University.

During the television interview, about which she was not particularly nervous, Mrs Bowles agreed that the figure she had seen was similar. Mr Pratt said that he had been startled by what he saw. After they had given a few details of the encounter, a Dr Davis was introduced and his opinion asked for. Unlike some BBC "instant" experts on ufos, Dr Davis seemed to have some knowledge of the subject. He said that although the two could have had a genuine experience, it was unlikely to have been supernatural. He said that there had been hundreds of similar reports from around the world, including the malfunction of cars. People, he said, responded to a deep-rooted mythology, and while there was a genuine stimulus, the causes were natural. The witnesses in the regional studio were not impressed by this statement, and apparently would not have spoken up if they had realised that their line was open.

On the following Sunday morning, Edgar Hatvany, Shirley Bradshaw, and I visited the lane to Chilcomb, where the alleged encounter took place. Our thanks go here to Frank Wood for his verbal directions. After visiting Chilcomb itself, to check on the horses, which are apparently locked up at night, I examined the grass verge carefully. The map reference is E-W 506, N-S 290 (O.S. sheet SU52). The verge is on the same level as the road, and there is no kerb. Trees and scrub grow on a 4 to 8 foot embankment adjacent to the far side of the verge. The embankment drops down sharply into a ploughed field. In places the scrub encroaches onto the grass,

and was clearly a popular place for dumping rubbish and unwanted domestic appliances. The field showed no unusual marks, although ploughing would have been prior to the encounter. While there, we met two young men with their cars parked on the grass. One claimed that he had seen a ufo over Winchester earlier in the year, but had forgotten the date.

There were no obvious ground marks on the grass verge, apart from those of car tyres at various places. Nor was there any damage to the scrub that we could see; on the opposite side of the lane was a lot of 'Old Man's Beard', the characteristic white fluffy growth of which could have been expected to have shown up scorch or burn marks. So far as I am concerned there was no physical evidence whatsoever at the site, not even the narrow tyre marks of the Mini skidding off the road. Other investigators apparently went to the other lane leading to Chilcomb, because Mrs Bowles's description of the local roads (and she agreed) was misleading. Reports of unusual findings on the lane near the MOD rifle range leading off the A33 should therefore, perhaps, be discounted.

There was, however, physical evidence of a circumstantial and subjective nature, difficult to evaluate. When we interviewed Mrs Bowles at her home, she told us that the right side of her face had become blotchy by the following Monday or Tuesday. This was confirmed by a neighbour who was present, and separately by Frank Wood. This blotchiness had cleared by the time we arrived some seven days later. Mrs Bowles said that her neck and right shoulder were burning for nearly a week afterwards (I have already mentioned that she thought her eyes had been affected in some way). She had been feeling slightly sick the whole week, and felt unable to eat proper meals. In passing she emphasized that she was not pregnant. She did admit that these symptoms might have been due to the excitement of the event, and to appearing on television, not to mention having to cope with various reporters and ufo investigators who had beaten a trail to her door before us. She also said that she felt as though she wanted to sleep for a week. A further point of interest came to light when Frank Wood asked if she had been wearing any metal. Astonished, Mrs Bowles said that she had taken her eternity ring off (worn next to her wedding ring) shortly after the event, but had not associated the wearing of it with her sighting. Interestingly, the skin of her finger under the ring had become red and sore, so she put on "Savlon" cream to ease and soothe the pain. As a throw-away line, when we were on the point of departing, Mrs Bowles said that she had noticed that a watch that had been with her had gone haywire and was no longer any use for time-keeping. So far as I know, Mr Pratt has not complained of any adverse physical effects, and, if anything, felt mildly exhilarated by the event.

The next piece of information will probably cause at least a few readers to draw emotive conclusions. Early on in the investigation, I learnt from a Winchester reporter that Mrs Bowles had come into the public eye in recent years as a result of poltergeist activity in her house. At least one of her sons would have been of a coincidental age. Exorcism had been performed by a local vicar. Mrs Bowles is also known locally as a 'psychic healer' and 'natural medium'. When I heard this I hesitated before investigating further, but realised that impartial investigation normally precedes value judgements.

Reverting to the locality for a moment, it is worth remarking that Winchester has numerous local myths and legends. Frank Wood discovered that the site of the alleged encounter lay on a significant "ley" line having 7 or 8 good "markers". The South of England is littered with tumuli, long barrows, ancient settlements, and earthworks, so it is possible to construct a grid of "ley" lines embracing the Winchester district, although one cannot say that they would all have as many "markers".

* * * * *

Some Results and Conclusions:

Without stretching the imagination too far, there are several aspects of this case which could be explained in mundane terms. It should be noted too that there are minor variations in the details given by the two witnesses. The Mini has been checked over for possible aberrations, but Mrs Bowles informed us that it performed as well, if not better, after the incident than before. Frank Wood expressed the opinion that the steering column lock was faulty, but although both Arnold West and I looked at it personally, we could find nothing obviously wrong with it.

Taking the case overall, and accepting the honesty of the witnesses, one is led to the opinion that they had a genuine and alarming experience. Mrs Bowles even volunteered to swear on the Holy Bible that what she had said was true. Both witnesses are apparently convinced that they saw something from "outer space". Mr Pratt thought that the cigar-shaped object was on a special mission, and, thinking back to wartime submarines, speculated that it would have had to be supported by a "mother ship". Such thoughts testify to the conviction held by the witnesses that they saw something of extraterrestrial origin.

It is thus only possible at present to say that the probability of this case representing a ufo encounter remains open.

In conclusion I should like to register my gratitude to the following for their assistance during the course of the above described investigations: Dr.Doel, Edgar Hatvany, Shirley Bradshaw, Arnold West, and Frank Wood.

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"THE WINCHESTER CONTACT CASE: THE SECOND ENCOUNTER",

by
Lionel Beer.

After completing the write-up of the incident described above, news was received from a researcher for Southern TV that the original witnesses --- Mrs Bowles and Mr Pratt --- were reporting a subsequent experience on Thursday, 30th.December. This news, in fact, tended to tie-in with a feeling, hunch, premonition, call it what you will, already formed by the close of the investigation detailed above that there might be further developments in due course to this case.

Dr.Geoffrey Doel had previously conducted a separate interview with Mr Pratt on behalf of BUFORA, and I asked him to look into the new claim. The following details are based upon his interview with Mrs Bowles in mid-January, when he was accompanied by Dr John Cleary-Baker, who knew her from his days when he used to work at Winchester Railway station.

Mrs Bowles told the interviewers that, at about 6.30pm, on December 30th., she decided to fill up her Mini's petrol tank ready for work the next morning. Mr Pratt accompanied her, and they drove east from her home to a garage on the B3404, about a mile from Quarry Road, and close to the roundabout previously mentioned, where it joins the A31. After filling the tank, they drove back the same way along this straight stretch of road, and, on an unlit part of the road which almost overlooks the site of the previous encounter, Mr Pratt said "Oh look, there is that big glow in the sky again". Mrs Bowles said that she did not see it immediately, although a few yards farther on she saw it going in and out of the clouds. She was then distracted by the headlights of a passing car, but again became aware of the "object" and also of a high-pitched whistling sound. The car started to rock backwards, and forwards and sideways, and she claims that her mind became a blank.

Eventually Mrs Bowles became aware that they were no longer in the car but were standing near it in a room, which she took to be in a "space-craft". Three men were standing watching them, and one stepped towards them and stood close beside her. Mrs Bowles was convinced that he was the same individual who had approached her Mini on November 14th. Another "spaceman" had a belt with a large flashing "jewel" at the front, which he kept rubbing. He looked across at one of the others and said what sounded like "Milliger" or "Milleeger", and spoken in an unidentified language. The two witnesses were addressed in broken English, and the "spacemen" said they were friendly and intended them no harm. One "spaceman" asked Mr Pratt to take seven steps up the room, and was then asked how he felt. Mr Pratt replied that it was cooler up at that end, and warmer "down there" when he returned to Mrs Bowles's side, or possibly vice-versa. The "spaceman" beside Mrs Bowles pointed over to the wall where there were several diagrams on transparent material. The diagrams consisted of different patterns, lines, and triangles, the meaning of which she did not understand. One of the "spacemen" said "These are our fields" "Fields?" queried Mr Pratt, thinking of grass. The reply came, "No, no, our fields", in broken English. The same man, who was looking at Mrs Bowles, said, "We are not coming to invade you", to which she replied "That's what Hitler said", and immediately feared that she had gone too far. The man seemed angry at that and replied, "You have a strong tongue".

Mrs Bowles said that the clothing of the "spacemen" was similar to that seen on the first occasion, except that the silver boiler suits fitted up to a polo-collar at the neck. This time she noticed silver boots, and, on the wall tucked into a loop, a pair of silver gauntlets. The material again reminded her of "Baco-foil", with the shiny side out. She described the "spacemen" as nice-looking people, with long sandy hair which seemed of a coarser texture than our own. Their eyes seemed fairly normal except that they glittered remarkably. Their hands also appeared to be normal.

Mr Pratt asked, "Why pick Joyce - is it anything to do with the car?" They did not understand the replies given by the "spacemen", but got the impression that it was something to do with the original "spaceman" putting his hand on the car roof during in the first encounter. Much of the conversation was not understood by the witnesses, and a lot of signs were made to them. They were, however, told that the "spacemen" would return, but no time was given.

In the middle of the room was a large bottle-like structure rising up from the floor. It was wide at the bottom and tapered upwards. It had bands round it in red, black, and yellow rings, with emblems that reminded Mrs Bowles of horoscope symbols. The size of the room was guessed at by the witnesses as being about 20 feet by 12 feet.

Mrs Bowles thought that Mr Pratt was held in a conversation that she could not herself remember, and, as it transpired, neither could he. Everything went hazy, and they found themselves seated in the Mini, with the headlights on by a river near a road, which neither of them recognized. After driving around for half an hour or so, they arrived at Chilworth, about 10 miles south of Winchester. From there they went straight back to Quarry Road, arriving about 8.15pm. Neither witness reported any physical effects arising from this second encounter.

Immediately after the incident, Mrs Bowles claims that she felt "very calm", but Mr Pratt seemed rather upset and hazy about what had happened.

As time has passed, and the details told to numerous interviewers, it seems possible that a few "extra" details may have been added. An incident mentioned subsequently by Mrs Bowles was that, one evening, she saw in the half-light on the landing at the top of the stairs in her house, a shadowy figure which she now thinks

was like one of the "spacemen". He was pointing out through the landing window in a direction which she has since verified as being towards Chilcomb. Also, one morning she was startled by a rapping on her bedroom window, and could see a silver gauntlet (virtually the same of those seen in the "space-craft") tapping on the glass; but there was no one attached to it.

It was subsequently learnt from the same Southern ITV researcher that Mrs Bowles was no longer on good terms with Mr Pratt. He also said that an "agent", apparently representing Mrs Bowles, had asked his company for a large appearance fee.

Some of the details that were gleaned while investigating this case have been omitted from this report both for reasons of prudence and a desire to contain the report within reasonable limits. Certainly none of the omitted details would, had they been included, have altered the gist or meaning of the narrative presented above. Nonetheless, the later developments and the highly curious extensions to this entire case induces one to regard the encounter claims with at least some degree of caution, an approach recommended here.

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"THE APODACA AFFAIR: SOME EARLY DEVELOPMENTS"

by

Ian C.M.Norrie.

(Editorial Note: All those who read the last issue of this journal will recall the extraordinary account of Antonio Apodaca (there inadvertently spelt as Apadoca). While that was going to press, various details pertaining to it were received from Contact International's representative in Mexico --- Mr Ian C.M.Norrie --- who has kindly supplied various important additional facts in the letter quoted below. It will also be noted that the Senor M.Gobe to whom the original account was ascribed was in reality Manuel Gutierrez Balcazar, as Mr.Norrie's letter makes clear.

As all these additional facts occurred early in the history of Apodaca's story, they are presented here under the heading "Early developments", which seems appropriate enough: Ed.)

"Dear Mr Delair,

14. December 1976"

You may recall the Mexican Taxi Driver story (that of Salvador Villanueva Medina: Ed.), that first came out in F.S.R., vol.2, no:2, of March-April 1956, and was subsequently published in many other books and magazines, notably in "Flying Saucer Pilgrimage" by Bryant and Helen Reeve. I also have the original reports in Spanish from the Mexican daily "Novedades", with some really excellent illustrations. These are unfortunately undated, but must have been around 1955, and were written by the reporter M.Gebe, which is an abbreviation (as pronounced in Spanish) of the initials M.G.B. of Manuel Gutierrez Balcazar. The story, as published at that time, left the taxi driver Salvador Villanueva Medina too frightened to accept the invitation of the two extraterrestrials to enter the space ship; and off they went spacewards without him; and he wended his way back to Mexico City a very perplexed man. Adamski later met him in Mexico City and accepted his story.

At the end of 1956 the entirely different Apodaca story started to come out in "Novedades", also reported by M.Gebe, and I translated it for Adamski as already stated (in an earlier letter: Ed.). During the subsequent years I had occasional meetings with M.Gebe over 3-hour long coffees, in which he related to me an extraordinary series of events concerning Villanueva Medina, and which he later published in 1965 in "El Figaro", a popular weekly of limited circulation (not likely to reach the more cultured circles of society). Briefly, Villanueva Medina became increasingly mentally disturbed after his experience, and one day, probably late in 1957, calmly informed M.Gebe that the Apodaca story was really his own. That he had in fact entered the space ship and travelled to Venus, etc., etc., as related in that story. And he asked M.Gebe's collaboration in writing a book about it, which M.Gebe very correctly declined. But Villanueva went ahead on his own, and in 1958 his book came out, "Yo he estado en Venus" (I have been in Venus), which is a combination of his own and the Apodaca stories. This had a wide sale, and was translated into German (but not English). When Adamski arrived in Germany on one of his tours, and found this very dubious book being read, which included the story he recognized as the Apodaca story I had sent him in translation, he was furious, and, I understand, threatened to cut all his scheduled lectures unless the book was withdrawn from circulation.

By an odd quirk of destiny I never met Villanueva Medina until about 1971, on the occasion of a visit to Mexico of Antonio Rivera. I then saw him a number of times and even had him in my house. I certainly think he had the initial contact, just as in the Adamski story and in dozens of other similar cases; but the sequel is full of question marks. At the same time, as you say, there are some curiously pertinent remarks on UFO behaviour and equipment which one cannot sweep under the carpet. You will, of course, appreciate that I am giving here only the leading facts, leaving out a great deal of important detail. Incidentally, I think you will have to consider copyright on this matter due to M.Gebe." Ian C.M.Norrie."

(Mr Norrie's letter is revelatory insofar as Adamski's reaction to the German edition of "Yo he estado en Venus" indicates very strongly that the person that he originally met in Mexico City (see top of page) and from whom he first heard the Apodaca story was definitely not Salvador Villanueva Medina, but in fact, as Norrie states, via implication, Apadoca himself. One therefore quickly sees why Adamski was angry, and why the Villanueva Medina event was quite separate from Apodaca's experience. At the outset, therefore, grave doubts about the authenticity of Villanueva's later claims arise, and why the contents of "Yo he estado en Venus" are unacceptable as printed in that tome. In a future edition of this journal further details of George Adamski's involvement in the initial stages of Apodaca's story will be presented through the courtesy of Lucius Farish and Ted Blocher: Ed.)

"SOME COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS ON THE ANTONIO APODACA CASE",

by

J.B.Delair.

Introduction:

At face value, Antonio Apodaca's claims, as recounted in the last issue of this journal (1), seem almost incredible, and it may well be that there are those who will refuse to believe it. Although such disbelief is easily understandable in this instance, one counsels caution before rejecting Apodaca's story outright, as it is intrinsically no more fantastic than say the Villas Boas case (2), which the majority of ufologists now appear to accept. One also counsels caution in ~~ac~~-cepting Apodaca's claims unquestioningly --- since that attitude is just as deplorable as that calling for its instant rejection.

In order to arrive at a reasonably balanced appraisal of Apodaca's narrative, therefore, we could do worse than examine and compare the numerous details comprising it, and assess whether or not they reveal a clever hoax or an amazing yet true incident. Some of these details are, with this aim in mind, examined below.

Background Facts:

On the temporary assumption that Apodaca's tale is composed of factual statements, two facts stand out above all the others in importance and should be constantly kept in mind when the remaining details (and the case as a whole) are also evaluated. These facts are that (a) Apodaca's experience occurred on October 9th., 1953, and (b) his account describes essentially humanoid (not monstrous) alien beings.

The date of his initial encounter is important here insofar as, prior to 1953. relatively few contacts with ufo occupants had been made and publicised. And, up to about the commencement of the now celebrated French humanoid wave of 1954, there was a tendency among numerous segments of society to regard ufos and their occupants as "martians" and as probably monstrous and hostile. Apodaca's story deals with evidently friendly, even benign, aliens, and was thus characterised by details that, to a certain degree, ran counter to widespread beliefs current at that time.

Respecting encounters with ufo occupants predating Apodaca's experience, those events --- even presuming that Apodaca even knew of them (for which there appears to be no evidence whatsoever) --- were largely devoid of details of the kind described by Apodaca. As we shall see, however, several details mentioned by Apodaca only became known to ufologists in general through studies of ufo occupant cases that occurred after the date of Apodaca's adventure, a particularly interesting and telling point.

In order to put Apodaca's claims in historical perspective, the following table summarizes the principal incidents featuring ufo occupants of humanoid appearance (both with and without associated ufos) that occurred between mid 1947 (when ufos first became generally known) and October 1953, when Apodaca's experiences began. Earlier accounts (of which many are now on file) are excluded as it is unlikely in the extreme that Apodaca would have known of them. The list also omits those cases in which essentially non-humanoid ufo occupants were reported, because Apodaca seems only to have seen humanoid forms on his alleged travels.

Our list merely summarizes the date, place, principal witness/es, and earliest known references for each case, themselves awarded letter designations to facilitate ease of reference later on when the need arises to extract particular details from them for comparison with statements made by Apodaca.

- A.1947: June 19. Webster, Massachusetts, USA.
An unnamed woman. (Worcester (Mass.) Daily Telegram, 7.7.1947).
- B.1947: Jul 7. Tacoma, Washington State, USA.
Gene Gamachi. (Tacoma (Wash.) News Tribune, 7.8.1947).
- C.1947: July 8. Acres Home, Houston, Texas, USA.
An unnamed man. (Houston (Tex.) Post, 9.7.1947).
- D.1947: July 23. N.E. of Pitanga, Brazil.
J.C. Higgins. (Diario do Tarde (Curitiba, Brazil), 8.8.1947; Correio do Noroeste (Bauru, Brazil), 9.8.1947).
- E.1949: Aug. 19. Death Valley, California, USA.
B. Fitzgerald and M. Garney. (Bakersfield Californian, 20.8.1949).
- F.1950: Mar. 13. Penon de los Banos, Mexico.
An unnamed witness. (El Universal (Mexico City), 14.3.1950).
- G.1950: Mar. 18. Lago, Argentina.
W. Arevalo. (La Razon, 13.4.1950).
- H.1950: Mar. 28. Between Morton and Mineral, Washington State, USA.
S.E. Thompson. (Centralia (Wash.) Daily Chronicle, 1.4.1950).
- I.1950: July 2. Steep Rock Lake, Ontario, Canada.
Mr and Mrs Gordon Edwards. (Port Arthur (Ont.) News Chronicle, 18.9.1950).
- J.1951: c. Dec. (exact date ?). Red Springs, North Carolina, USA.
Sam Coley and two others. (Lumberton (N.C.) Robesonian, 8.7.1952).
- K.1952: Apr. 4. Hasselbach, East Germany.
Herr Linke. (London Sunday Graphic, 7.6.1952).
- L.1952: July 31. Bernina Pass, Italy.
Mr and Mrs Monguzzi. (Epoca, no: 109, 8.11.1952).
- M.1952: Aug. 6. Lumberton, North Carolina, USA.
James Allen. (Lumberton (N.C.) Robesonian, 7.8.1952).
- N.1952: Sept. 12. Flatwoods, West Virginia, USA.
Kathleen May and others. (Charleston (W.Va.) Daily Mail, 14.9.1952).
- O.1952: Nov. 2. Mr. Blythe, California, USA.
George Adamski and six others. (Leslie, D., and G. Adamski. 1953, "Flying Saucers Have Landed", pp. 185-210).
- P.1953: mid-Aug. (exact date unknown). Ciudad Valley, Mexico.
Salvador Villanueva Medina. (Noticias (Caracas, Venezuela), ?.12.1953).

The above table lists all the cases featuring ufo occupants of one sort or another reported between mid 1947 and October 1953 of which accounts have been published, and which describe aliens observed in their entirety (i.e., excluding those other cases in which only the heads or heads and shoulders of aliens were seen through portals and portholes). Theoretically, Apodaca could have been familiar with all these accounts had he read sufficiently widely, although in reality it is probable that he may have known only of case F in addition to cases O and P which he admitted to having previously heard of. If Apodaca's account constitutes a fabrication, then it is among the above cases that we should expect to find details of the type that could have fired his imagination and resulted in a fictitious story.

Before examining this possibility, however, a further 18 cases --- more or less comparable to those above --- require our consideration even though accounts of none of them had been published at the time Apodaca wrote his remarkable letter to Senor Gebe. However remote it may seem, the possibility nevertheless exists that, somehow, Apodaca had got to hear of some or all these incidents via other sources and used their varied ingredients to concoct his own tale. As we shall see, this

possibility is so unlikely (since, if true, Apodaca would have unquestionably been the best informed ufologist of the time) as to merit no serious consideration here. On the assumption, however, that ufo occupants' activities form part of some pre-determined programme, and that Apodaca's alleged experiences also formed an integral part of that programme, the insertion here of these additional 18 cases may, through close analysis of them, assist in our attempts to assess the veracity and implications of Apodaca's claims, and therefore need to be included here. They are distinguished from the afore-listed cases by having been accorded numerical references, and are as follows.

1. 1947*: c.3rd Feb. Pucusana, Peru.
Senor "C.A.V.". (Lorenzen, J., and C.Lorenzen. 1968."UFOs Over the Americas", pp.122-148.)
*Reassigned to 1952 by Greenwell (FSR, vol.xvi, no:6, 1970, pp.12f.).
2. 1947: Early July (exact date unknown). Amfreville-La-Mi-Voie, France.
Mme S..... ("Les Soucoupes Volantes" (Historia Hors Serie, Paris, no:46, 1976), p.69).
3. 1947: 14th Aug. Nr.Chiarso Creek, by Carnia, Italy.
R.L.Johannis. (Clypeus, vol.11, no:5, May 1964, p.3.)
4. 1948: 3rd.Apr. San Martino in Pensilis, Italy.
Messrs Langiano and Bavota. ("UFO in Italia", edited by S. Boncampagni et al (Firenze, 1974), p.94).
5. 1948: Autumn (exact date ?). Lineville, Alabama, USA.
A woman (name with-held). (Alabama Times, 25.3.1973).
6. 1948: date unknown. Near Campo Grande, Brazil.
O.A.Souza Bueno. (FSR, vol.xv, no:i, 1969, p.12.)
7. 1949: date unknown. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
Mario Restier. (SBEDV Bulletin, no:15, Apr.1968).
8. 1950: 24th.Apr. Abbiate Guazzone, Italy.
Bruno Facchini. (FSR, vol.ix, no:2, p.4).
9. 1950: 23rd.July. Guyancourt airport, France.
Claude Blondeau. (Guieu, J. 1956."Flying Saucers Come From Another World", pp.229-231.)
- 10.1951: 19th.June. Sonderborg, Denmark.
Joseph Matiszewski. (UFO Nachrichten, 5, 1959.)
- 11.1951: Summer (exact date unknown). Beausoleil, Alpes Maritimes, France.
(unpublished report in A.Gamard's files).
- 12.1951: Exact date unknown. Casteil, Pyrnees Orientales, France.
(unpublished report in A.Gamard's files).
- 13.1952: June (exact day unknown). Little Spring Creek, Tennessee, USA.
Carl Haynes. (Ingram, S., and Darbro, W. 1974."UFOs Over the Tennessee Valley" (Huntsville, Alabama), pp.65-71).
- 14.1952: July 28th. Mormon Mesa, Nevada, USA.
Truman Bethurum. (Bethurum, T. 1954."Aboard a Flying Saucer").
- 15.1953: 3rd.Jan. Near Santana dos Montes, Guanabara, Brazil.
M.R.Bessa. (Merseyside UFO Bulletin, vol.vi, no:3, 1974, p.53).
- 16.1953: 20th.June. Brush Creek, Marble Creek Canyon, California, USA.
Messrs J.Q.Black and J.Van Allen. (Fate, 5/54, pp.48-52).
- 17:1953: c.2nd.July. Villares del Saz, Spain.
M.M.Hernaiz. ("The Humanoids", edited by C.Bowen: 1969, pp. 77-82).
- 18:1953: 4th.Sept. Tonnerre, France.
A woman (name not cited).** (Phenomenes Spatiaux, no:15, March 1968, pp.31-2).
** Given merely as Mme.D.....

Of the humanoid entities sighted in these cases, 17 were dwarf forms $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet or less in height (cases B, C, E, I, K, L, M, P, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 13, 16, 17, and 18), 9 were normal sized between $4\frac{1}{2}$ and 7 feet in stature (cases A, G(?), O, 6, 8, 9, 10, 14, and 15), and 2 were very tall or giant like (cases D and N). In the remaining cases, insufficient details exist to permit even provisional classification.

On the basis of these statistics, short-statured entities had therefore been the norm in occupant cases antedating Apodaca's claims. As just shown, however, over half these cases were not publicized until well after October 1953 — the month of Apodaca's experiences — and two cases (nos:11 and 12) are still unpublished*, while of the cases published before that date, only three (cases N, O, and P) can truthfully be said to have by then received comparatively wide publicity. The interesting Mormon Mesa (case 14) and Steep Rock Lake (case I) incidents, moreover, did not become generally known until Bethurum's and Wilkins's books (3; 4) describing them appeared in 1954. Also relevant here is the fact that cases N, O, and P respectively featured giant, normal-sized, and midget-like entities, thereby presenting no commonality to any would-be hoaxer.

Apodaca's description of dwarf-sized aliens on the one hand coincides, therefore, with the above-mentioned norm, but, on the other, can hardly have been influenced (if at all) by more than one of the three cases (i.e., case P) most publicized at that time, unless, as seems unlikely, Apodaca had also heard of the decidedly dubious dating from 1948 in which diminutive occupants had been found dead inside three crashed ufos (5). Scully's description of these particular entities, however, does not compare very closely with Apodaca's account of his alien visitors, so that on balance there appear to be scant grounds for believing that the Apodaca story is fictitious, fantastic though parts of it may seem.

It is with these background details in mind that we now analyze some of the more significant (or apparently significant) elements in Apodaca's narrative.

Analysis:

Little needs to be said about the mode of arrival of the two humanoids, since it, and the type of object concerned, corresponds closely to numerous others reported both before and after the date in question — October 1953. Of some interest, however, is the fact that two individuals arrived together. Parties of two figured in some of the afore-listed events (cases E, K, P, 3, 6, 9, etc.) and groups of 3 or more in several others (cases D, G, I, 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, etc.). In later years many further cases involving pairs of ufo occupants have occurred. It has already been noted that dwarf-sized occupants tend to operate in pairs, or singly (6), thus, again, Apodaca's claim that he met two such aliens is consistent with wider testimony accumulated over a long period.

The physical appearance of Apodaca's visitors, and their clothing, also merits comment. We will deal with the various aspects separately.

Stature: This has already been discussed in some depth above, so suffice to observe that Apodaca's estimate of their height — 3ft.11 $\frac{1}{4}$ ins. (ib., p.9) — falls well within the range of the dwarf group of ufo occupants.

Facial Features: strangely, Apodaca does not furnish very precise details here, although his reference to the aliens displaying "the best of smiles" signifies that they had mouths with discernible lips and, perhaps, visible teeth (ibid.). His description of their eyes (ibid., pp.9-10) as being like those of a "mountain cat" or a "savage animal" suggests that the pupils were vertical, although he does not expressly say so. Both Higgins (case D) and Johannis (case 3) reported occupants with large eyes, the latter specifically mentioning vertical pupils. Rather

* To be published in due course by Gamard.

similar feline eyes were observed in small creatures possessing upstanding pointed ears encountered at El Yunque, Puerto Rico, on 20th. October, 1973 (7, p.6; 8, p.6, fig.6). The pale green colour of the alien's eyes is interesting though not necessarily significant as, on other occasions, the eyes of aliens have been reported as being brown, black, blue, violet, red, plum-coloured, pink, and yellow. Apodaca says little about his visitors' mouths and noses, and could evidently not see their ears due to obscuration by the helmets they wore or their long hair.

Skin: although he does not comment on its texture, Apodaca states that the colour of the humanoids' skin was "ivory white" (1, p.10). This pale colour has been reported on other occasions, for example, in November 1957 when Malvin Stevens saw three 4½ feet tall aliens with "pasty white faces" (9, p.177), and on 14th. May, 1960, when several "pale looking" entities were seen near two landed discs on the beach at Paracura, Ceara State, Brazil (ib., p.152). The well known Maurice Masse case of July 1965 also featured two "very white" skinned humanoids (ib., p.128). McCampbell (10, p.107) alludes to still other examples.

Hair: described by Apodaca as shoulder length and grey, little of value can be obtained by comparing these details with descriptions of hair in other humanoid reports, as similar length hair has been recorded in cases involving both dwarf-like and normal-sized aliens. In some of these cases, however, hair colour varied from blonde and fair to long and black (ib., p.108).

Hands: Apodaca's account provides no useful information about the hands of his two visitors, which, at least initially, seem to have been covered by clothing (1, p.9). From this, one surmises that the outline of the hands was more or less normal.

Feet: almost precisely the same conclusion can be reached about the feet of Apodaca's humanoids, which seem to have been enclosed in clothing throughout the duration of his association with them.

Speech: Apodaca had the opportunity of listening to the humanoids converse in two languages — his own (Spanish) and some unknown highly guttural language which he took to be their usual tongue. The latter is most interesting as several other ufo occupant cases are known describing essentially similar sounds. For example, on 8th. November, 1954, three entities near a landed object supported on three legs were heard to converse in guttural sounds by a crowd of about 150 people at Monza, Italy (9, p.125). Similar noises proceeded from two 4 foot high aliens near a landed ufo close to Lugren, Haute-Savoie, France, on 23rd. August, 1954 (11, p.45), while four years earlier Bruno Facchini (case 8) encountered three or four humanoids who uttered sounds like "Grr Grr". Grunts and growls of varying length and intonation also emanated from the aliens who abducted Villas Boas on 5th. October, 1957, while the female who allegedly seduced him, several times made animal-like sounds (9, pp.66, 71). Several additional cases recording similar guttural and growling sounds are on record.

Variety of Sizes: Apodaca's visitors were not identical in height, one being shorter than the other. Later, Apodaca saw aliens of "all sizes", although a short stature predominated (1, p.14), some being as small as only one metre (ib., p.15). A review of a large number of cases describing dwarf-like humanoids, however, shows that a height of 4 to 4½ feet appears to be rather common among them — exactly the height given by Apodaca for his visitors.

Clothing: the humanoids wore one-piece suits, coloured grey and looking like corduroy, and covering the hands and feet; he furthermore states that males and females dress alike (ib., p.14), although some wear differently coloured clothing (ib., p.15). The grey colour may be significant in that the "little men" seen by Malvin Stevens in 1957 (see above) also wore grey clothing (9, p.177), as did two 4 to 4½ foot tall aliens observed by Ramos Bessa in January 1953 (case 15). Yet another

instance of humanoids wearing grey coloured attire --- again, one-piece suits --- occurred in Santo Amaro, a suburb of Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 2nd. November, 1954, when Maurilio Braga Godoi allegedly entered a landed ufo with an open portal, studied a strangely glowing map of South America he found on an oddly-shaped table, and was then suddenly confronted by three short-statured (less than 5 feet) "men" (9, pp.372-3). Apodaca's details about his visitors' helmets are so scanty as to be unhelpful; but it should be noted that humanoid aliens appear to wear a wide variety of helmets and headgear, as recorded in ufo archives, some of which may actually be devices enabling them to breathe our atmosphere (10, pp.117-119). Apodaca's reference to the humanoids wearing wide shiny belts is interesting (1, p.9) in that the Villanueva Medina affair of only a few weeks before (case P) also featured similarly-dressed entities, and that Johannis (case 3) saw two aliens wearing red belts as early as 1947. McCampbell discusses a wide variety of belts worn by humanoids and speculates upon their possible function (10, pp.115-6).

Turning now to other aspects of Apodaca's narrative, the aliens' interest in animal and vegetable raising is noteworthy, for it seemingly reflects their repeated interest down the years in farms and farming of all kinds. It may be relevant to mention the Carl Higson case of 25th. October, 1974, which occurred by the northern boundary of Medicine Bow National Forest, Wyoming, USA., as one of the things conveyed to Higson by the strange "man" he encountered was that he (the "man") was searching for food plants and that animals had been taken from Earth for breeding purposes on his own world (9, p.230). One may also recall the celebrated Gary Wilcox case of 24th April, 1964, featuring two humanoids about 4 feet tall who expressed great interest in fertilizers and agricultural procedures used by Wilcox (ib., p.183). We shall return to the Wilcox case again later.

Little can be gained by discussing the many and varied details of the ufos entered by Apodaca, since practically no reliable information exists about the structure, equipment and instrumentation of ufos, and even those accounts that do refer to them are usually devoid of meaningful details. The monitoring screen, however, is interesting and seems to compare reasonably well with apparently similar devices allegedly seen inside other ufos by certain individuals.

Passing on to a consideration of the environment Apodaca found upon emerging from the landed ufo, we can see that the landing in or near an orchard, essentially the same as that on Apodaca's own farm, was probably deliberately chosen by the aliens to allay any fear of their passenger. Psychologically it was an ideal choice. The fact that Apodaca discovered that the orchard grew on the roof of a tall building (1, p.13) is especially interesting when we recall that the humanoids in the afore mentioned Gary Wilcox incident referred to growing their food in the atmosphere (9, p.183). So far as is known, this is a unique humanoid assertion, while the fact that the Wilcox case occurred 11 years after Apodaca's adventure (itself almost certainly unknown to Wilcox) indicates mind-boggling possibilities. A rooftop orchard like Apodaca described could very easily be interpreted as "growing food in the atmosphere".

Also pertinent here is Apodaca's observation that, on another nearby rooftop, a crop of mushrooms or some such fungus was growing (1, p.15). This is, by earthly standards, a strange crop to be growing on a rooftop but one which, considering that ufos were using the rooftops as landing-pads, assumes considerable fascination when we recall those cases in which giant and strange mushrooms have been found growing at or around known landing sites, as for example at Pachimoco near Jachal, Argentina (12), in April 1975. Several other comparable cases are also known. Is it not entirely possible that alien mushroom spores attached themselves to certain ufos using rooftop landing-pads where mushrooms grew, and that these were inadvertently transported to Earth and deposited at the landing sites in question?

Clearly the atmosphere on the alien world was different from Earth's, since the great heat experienced there by Apodaca (1, p.13) caused him to faint. We may at this juncture revert to a consideration of the possible function of some of the helmets worn by humanoids on Earth, as discussed by McCampbell (10, pp.117-119), and recall that, once inside his ufo, Villas Boas was placed in a room in which the chemical composition of the "air" was seemingly changed prior to the entry of the seducting alien female (9, p.68). That some difference exists between our familiar terrestrial atmosphere and that encountered by Apodaca seems fairly evident. The fact that he was given a "cigar"-like object to suck, and which enabled him to better breathe, also seems to be not only evidence of this but is, itself, a particularly interesting element in Apodaca's story, for a rather similar event took place in late September 1952 on the banks of the River Serchio near San Pietro a Vico, in Italy, where Carlo Rossi met an extremely thin and tall "fisherman" who gave him a "cigarette" that made him feel very faint. Two months before, Rossi had watched a strange turreted circular object drawing-up water from the river at that spot, before departing at "frightful speed", but had not reported the incident. The stranger asked Rossi, just as he was accepting the "cigarette", whether he had ever seen a strange flying machine there previously, and, just as Rossi began to feel faint, suddenly grabbed the "cigarette" from him and hastened quickly away (13). One might be forgiven for wondering if Rossi's "cigarette" was the same type of apparatus as Apodaca's "cigar", but geared to work in reverse. Although initially publicized in a single issue of an Italian newspaper in 1952 (ib.), this case did not become generally known until detailed in 1974 (14) and 1975 (15), and is very unlikely to have been familiar to Apodaca in October 1953.

Apodaca's description of the buildings leaves much to be desired, but his reference to their exteriors having a "high polish" is interesting in that "great glass-like buildings" were seen on an unknown "planet" visited by two young Brazilians in November 1963, after having been invited by two tall aliens they met at Atafona beach, Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil (unpublished case held by Ted Bloecher). Even more interesting is the fact that these Brazilians saw many ufos flying over and around these buildings, very much as Apodaca asserts he saw at his city. (1, p.13).

Although intriguing, Apodaca's accounts of the roads and vehicles he saw offer little scope for comment, except those he likened to bicycles and multiformed motor-cycles. Informed readers will recall the incident from France of a few years back in which several humanoid-like entities were seen driving along a road astride a multi-formed vehicle of great similarity to a terrestrial motor-cycle (16). Nor will they overlook the mention of a racing-car type of machine with four unusual "inverted" wheels or wheel-like projections seen by Jose Antonio da Silva during the period of his abduction from Bebedouro, Minas Gerais State, Brazil, in May 1969 (17, p.10). All these elements appear to relate to the same general kind of vehicle or series of vehicles, and the French observation just cited and Apodaca's reference concerning multi-formed motor-cycles is, at the very least, an astonishing similarity. Even more to the point, the French observation is, as far as is known, unique, and Apodaca's written account occurred years earlier than the French sighting.

The apparent lack of greeting and communication among Apodaca's aliens is interesting insofar that on several occasions eyewitnesses to landed ufos with aliens have reported that the latter ignored them or seemed to be unaware of their presence, almost as though they were programmed to undertake only one specific task. This writer has discussed some implications of this behavioural trait among certain humanoids and suggested that it conceivably results from some higher control (18).

Also of interest is Apodaca's claim that he met two Frenchmen resident on the alien world, particularly when we recall the large number of recorded abductions of human

beings by ufo occupants over the years, some of them evidently of a permanent nature. One immediately thinks of cases like the total disappearance of hundreds of soldiers into a "loaf of bread" shaped cloud at ground-level at Gallipoli, Turkey, in 1915, which then rose skywards and drifted slowly away with other similar cloud like objects that had been hovering overhead (19, pp.98-100); of the Rivalino Mafra da Silva case in which the unfortunate man was kidnapped on the very doorstep of his home in Diamantina, Brazil, before the gaze of his young son by two globes (20); and of the cases discussed by this writer in the Spring of 1976 (21, pp.20-21). The aforementioned unpublished Atafona beach incident includes a reference to a visit the two young Brazilians made to magnesium mines on the alien world, all the miners being earthmen abducted from our planet. That human "visitors" have seen human beings on other worlds, either willingly resident there or held forcibly, is now becoming another recurrent thread in the great ufo puzzle. Apodaca's meeting with two Frenchmen merely adds to this aspect.

Finally, we may ponder the length of time that Apodaca claimed to have been absent from Earth -- 4 days and 19 hours (1, p.17). This period is markedly like the 4½ days that da Silva discovered after being abducted at Bebedouro (17, p.13). Mario Restier (case 7) thought he had been away from Earth a mere 3 days, whereas he had been absent almost 4 months. The abovementioned young Brazilians from Atafona found that they had been away a "long time" (exact duration unspecified). In these, and numerous other cases in which contactees and other individuals appear to have been isolated by ufo occupants from Earth-time, for periods invariably longer than they originally imagined, there appears to be some type of time-distortion, and it is mind-stretching to consider these in relating Keel's dissertations on time-cycles (22). On the face of things Earth-time appears to proceed more rapidly than ufo occupant-time. Apodaca could not have known this, yet his story reveals it, and, moreover, his narrative preceded by several years a general awareness among ufologists of the existence of this factor.

Conclusion:

On the basis of the contents of Apodaca's story and the comparative notes above, one must accept Apodaca's claims as being essentially genuine. In many of their constituent details, these claims parallel to a remarkable degree the experiences of others quite unknown to him and often seem to be forerunners of experiences not to be sustained by others until many years later. How, for example, does one write off as spurious or coincidental such items as his humanoid visitors conforming so closely to the "normal" 4 to 4½ foot stature of typical dwarf aliens; their animal like eyes, pale skin, and guttural speech noticed so often in other unrelated incidents elsewhere; their grey clothing, also repeatedly recorded in the literature; or the astonishing description of multiple motor-cycle forms of transport destined to be seen only on one later occasion in France? The consistencies with the overall ufo record are both too close and too many for them to be the result of pure chance. Indeed, they are more remarkable than the admittedly fantastic elements elsewhere in his narrative, although, as noted earlier, even these are no more fantastic than the Villas Boas or Bebedouro cases.

It is the conclusion of this writer, therefore, that Apodaca's story constitutes a genuine episode in the known ufo saga, and that it contains vitally important pieces of the ufo jigsaw. It is, moreover, to be hoped that every effort will shortly be made to reinterview Apodaca himself (whose account indicates that a vast deal more about his experiences could be obtained from him) and to locate and interview all surviving cowitnesses to the alien visits to his property in Jalisco. The information he provides in his amazing account could, one ventures to assert, prove to be one of the most valuable pieces of "evidence" for the reality of ufos and their extraordinary occupants.

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B O O K R E V I E W S,

by

Brinsley Le Poer Trench & J.B.Delair

UFO books and publications dealing with related topics continue to pour off the world's printing presses in profusion. It is impossible to review them all, even though copies of many of them find their way into Contact (UK)'s library. Below are reviews of two of the more significant publications appearing recently.

"IS GOD SUPERNATURAL? The 4,000-Year Misunderstanding", by R.L.Dione.

Published by Bantam Books, New York; pp.162.

U.K. price 50p.

In this very controversial book, the author presents his closely reasoned case for God not being of a supernatural nature, but a physical being who is an extremely advanced technologist far ahead of Earth scientists.

One of the most fascinating pages in this book deal with the extraordinary events involving three children at Fatima, in Portugal, starting in 1916 and culminating with the "strange dance of the sun" before an estimated audience of nearly 100,000 people on October 13th., 1917. Dione gives it as his opinion, and puts forward some strong evidence in support of it, that the whole spectacle was staged by God using a very advanced technology. The author also advances an intriguing reason

why the Vatican did not release the famous "secret message", given to the three children, at the intended time — 1960.

Another important part of this book is the section dealing with a brain-manipulating device used by God and His agents or angels. As ufologists are aware, there have been many recorded sightings and ufo incidents where contactees have either suffered some ill effects, or have suddenly become erudite on advanced subjects that they previously knew little or nothing about. All this, for better or for worse, usually the result of some light beam flashed at them from the ufo.

Mr. Dione gives many biblical examples of this device in operation, and this reviewer points out that it has not always been used for the immediate benefit of some individuals — rather the other way round — although apparently for the benefit of God's overall long-term plan for us all.

This is not a long book, but it is packed with fascinating material of much interest to ufologists and open-minded Christians alike. I would stress that the author goes to great pains to emphasize that, although his concepts may run counter to various dogmas and theological views held by the churches, they do not contradict the Bible itself. That, in itself, is food for thought.

In an appendix, there are three interesting anti-gravity experiments, the first by Edward C. Delves and Bruce E. DePalma, the second two by the latter on his own. I am also delighted that the book has an index, something of a rarity in a book of this kind. My final advance to you all is to go out and buy this book: it will certainly make you think.

B. Le P. T.

"ENCOUNTERS WITH UFO OCCUPANTS", by Coral and Jim Lorenzen.
Published by Berkley Medallion Books, New York: pp.424.

In 1967 a milestone was reached in ufo literature with the Signet paperback printing of Coral and Jim Lorenzen's "Flying Saucer Occupants", a fascinating collection of ufo occupant reports covering many years. Evidently that book quickly became a major work of reference if the number of times it has since been listed in bibliographies can be taken as a reliable guide.

We should, therefore, be most grateful to these authors for producing what is essentially an updated version of their earlier book that, published last summer in paperback form, appeared under the new title "Encounters with UFO Occupants".

Double the length of the original Signet printing, "Encounters with UFO Occupants" not only deals with even more cases than before but is also embellished with 14 excellent illustrations and carries a very useful index — neither of these features appearing in the earlier Signet version. Although cases as recent as 1975 are included in this book, and the authors state that they have discussed only a selection of the known total, it is, perhaps, a little curious that many interesting and important incidents, such as the La Selva Beach (1965), Childers (1969), Bebedouro (1969) and Greensburg (1973) cases, and those in which ufo occupants have apparently been photographed (e.g., the Monguzzi, Hill, and Greenhaw photographs), have been excluded. Indeed, so many episodes involving ufo occupants have occurred since 1970 that, although one sympathises with the authors at being forced to leave out many significant cases, one might nevertheless have expected a considerably deeper post-1970 coverage than has been offered — possibly at the expense of the admittedly interesting though non-essential chapter on ufos and the CIA. Perhaps a third edition, which the Lorenzens must surely soon write, will remedy the situation.

It might be imagined that the presentation of so many cases would, despite their individual interest, result in a boring or repetitious text. Happily, this has

been largely avoided by the authors' literary expertise, for, from cover to cover, the text bounces along most entertainingly. The complicated chapter on the psychic and hypnotic implications is especially well written, and, importantly, is replete with an extremely useful bibliography.

In a work of these dimensions it would be too much to expect a total absence of errors, although overall surprisingly few have been noted. Nonetheless, Pedro Serate suddenly becomes Mauricio Bessa (of the immediately preceding case) on p.144, while the amazing C.A.V. affair --- recently redated as 1952 by Richard Greenwell who investigated it --- is still assigned to 1947. Generally speaking, however, these are minor blemishes in an otherwise tremendous effort.

"Encounters with UFO Occupants", therefore, is highly recommended as a first-rate addition to the ufo literature, and one that merits a prominent place on every ufologist's shelf. Copies may be obtained from Miss Susanne Stebbing, who advertises in this journal.

J.B.D.

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* * * * *

UFO MODELS:

In the last issue of "Awareness" (p.29) we announced arrangements to produce models of various basic types of ufos. It is with great regret and much frustration that we now have to advise all readers that the firm which undertook to manufacture these for us has gone into liquidation as a result of the current inflation and economic chaos. It is not possible at this time, therefore, to offer any ufo models although, of course, every effort is now being made to find a suitable replacement manufacturer. When this occurs, and we are assured of delivery, etc., news of the new arrangement will be announced in this journal.

Meanwhile, all those readers who have ordered models may either (a) receive their monies back immediately, or (b) authorise the Treasurer (who still holds all the monies safely) to retain the monies until such time as a new manufacturer has been found. Will all those who have sent monies with their orders please advise the Treasurer of their wishes in this respect; his address is 48 Crown Road, Wheatley, Nr.Oxford, Oxon.

Needless to add, we apologise profusely for any inconvenience sustained and look forward to being able to remedy the position in the not too distant future.

* * * * *

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Will all interested persons please write to Bellandi Roberto, of Corso Lodi N.III, 20139, Milan, Italy --- who has recently founded a new ufo study group called POLAR --- as he seeks correspondents in England to exchange news and views with.

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All communications should be either addressed direct to Dr.Haines or to the editor who will forward them to him. Dr.Haines's address is: 325 Langton Avenue, Los Altos, California 94022, USA.

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